

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A filter material for the preparation of filter pouches and filter bags for infusion beverages, characterized in that said filter material comprises a filter base material and a superabsorber material consisting of fibers, wherein the amount of said superabsorber fibers is from about 1 to about 70% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter
10 material.
2. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized in that the area weight of said filter material is from about 8 to about 90 g/m².
- 15 3. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized in that the area weight of said filter material is from about 10 to about 25 g/m².
4. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized
20 in that said the filter base material is formed of natural fibers.
5. The filter material according to claim 4, wherein the natural fibers are selected from conifer cellulose, deciduous wood cellulose and abaca fibers.
25
6. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized in that said filter material comprises two layers,
a first layer which comprises natural fibers and the superabsorber fibers, and
30 a second layer which comprises sealable polymer fibers, and wherein said second layer is coated onto said first layer.
7. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers
35

in an amount from about 2 to about 30% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

5 8. The filter material according to claim 6, characterized in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 2 to about 30% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

10 9. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 3 to about 10% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

15 10. The filter material according to claim 6, characterized in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 3 to about 10% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

20 11. A process for preparing a filter material according to claim 1, comprising incorporating superabsorber fibers into the filter base material in the wet section of a paper machine, wherein the amount of said superabsorber fibers in from about 1 to about 70% by weight.

25 12. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by latex or other chemical binders.

13. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by mechanical strengthening.

30 14. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by hydrodynamic strengthening.

35 15. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a (meth)acrylate copolymer.

16. A process according to claim 15, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a cross-linked acrylate copolymer, optionally in salt form.

5 17. A process for preparing a filter material according to claim 6, comprising incorporating superabsorber fibers into the filter base material in the wet section of a paper machine, wherein the amount of said superabsorber fibers in from about 1 to about 70% by weight.

10 18. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by latex or other chemical binders.

15 19. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by mechanical strengthening.

20 20. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by hydrodynamic strengthening.

21. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a (meth)acrylate copolymer.

25 22. A process according to claim 21, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a cross-linked acrylate copolymer, optionally in salt form.

30

35